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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION - 25 November 1952

SUBJECT: Foreign Language Reference Materials

PARTICIPANTS:



OCB

1. The following agreements were reached with respect to the OTR proposal for the establishment of an interdepartmental committee on foreign language reference material.

a. OTR will prepare the terms of reference for the inventory of foreign language lexical materials that have been published. Such terms of reference will take into account the priority of languages and subjects within the languages. Copies of this will be sent to FIB, OCB, DB/P-OIS, and OIC. OIC will check to make sure that all parties concur in the proposed terms of reference.

b. OCB will arrange either through its own staff or by the development of an external contract, possibly with the Library of Congress, for the production of the inventory within the prescribed time limit.

c. OIC will immediately procure information regarding existing external research contracts in the Government which have been let for the development of lexical materials. Upon completion of this assignment OIC will make this information available to OTR, FIB, DB/P, and OCB and will raise for consideration what other agencies of Government should be also recipients. OIC will arrange for subsequent necessary dissemination of that information.

d. A memorandum embodying the foregoing plans will be prepared by OIC, cleared with the interested offices, and dispatched to the IAS agencies, inviting their representatives to attend a meeting for the purpose of canvassing their views with regard to the plans laid out above.

e. Consideration of the establishment of an interdepartmental committee will be postponed pending the completion of the inventory of published lexical materials and of existing U. S. governmental external research contracts for the development of lexical materials.

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Committee - Interdepartmental
Foreign Language Materials

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it being understood that a major purpose of the interdepartmental committee would be to consult and obtain agreement regarding the letting of contracts for the development of lexical materials in a systematic and non-duplicating way. It was also understood that should problems arise which show a need for establishing a committee earlier than noted above any interested party should make this need known to OIC at which time the matter will be re-opened.

JAMES Q. BERRY
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

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